

The Monthly A·C·E

The Official Bulletin of the Association of Clandestine
Radio Enthusiasts

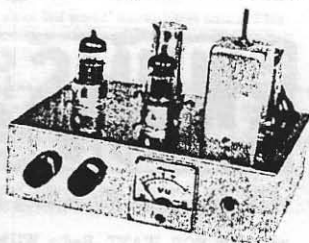
Since 1982 • August 2001

WANNA GET IN TROUBLE WITH THE FCC?

Those

KILOCYCLE KOPS

build your own



BROADCAST STATION

Clandestine—The mailing address for *R. Libertad* is P. O. Box 1624, Miami 1, Florida, not Box 2624 as previously listed in this column. A self-prepared QSL, written in Spanish, was returned with the signature of Humberto Lopez Perez, Engineer. (One reader asked if this station were located aboard the S. S. Rex. While your Short-Wave Editor has also noted that the Rex has been in the news recently and while we believe that *R. Libertad* is on shipboard, we still have no information as to exactly what ship, if any, is used as headquarters for this station.)

*how to eavesdrop on
real spies*

The Managing Editor's Page

By Harry Helms

P. O. Box 335, Ridgecrest, CA, 93556-0335

E-mail: ak6c@earthlink.net

Welcome to the August ACE!

As noted elsewhere in this bulletin, "Veried Response" is missing this month. I'm taking advantage of this to present an article from the May, 1963 issue of *Electronics Illustrated* magazine. This was the first electronics magazine I purchased after reading about shortwave radio at the local library. This particular issue had three articles by legendary DXer C. M. Stanbury: 1) a description of how to use switched vertical and horizontal antennas to determine the location of clandestine stations (as I later learned, the article was technical hogwash); 2) a report on anti-Castro clandestine Radio Americas, complete with guesses as to its location; and 3) the following article on the grandfather of all pirate stations, WUMS. That issue was potent stuff to give a highly impressionable 11-year old! I hope you enjoy reading this reprint as much as I enjoyed reading the original in 1963.

The Strange Case of Radio WUMS

By C. M. Stanbury II

We're Unknown Mysterious Station, he said. He wasn't kidding!

WATT FOR WATT, Radio WUMS holds some kind of record for sprouting gray hair at the FCC and its predecessor, the Federal Radio Commission. In its 23-year history, WUMS never had much power, but neither did it have a license. And the spot where it chose to operate was by no means obscure—right in the broadcast band. WUMS first hit the air on Nov. 16, 1925. The call letters came—not from the FRS but from the fertile brain of its owner. He chose them for a reason, to stand for We're Unknown Mysterious Station. As it turned out, WUMS was not as unknown as it was mysterious. Scores of people heard the station on the air but for six years few knew its location. WUMS is a rarity in FCC annals because it was a true outlaw that went on and on and on. Its license couldn't be revoked because it had none. Its operator couldn't be tossed in the jug because no one of official standing knew who he was.

Builder, operator and protector of WUMS was one David F. Thomas. Now in his 50's, Thomas grew up and lived, boy and man, around the little (population now 831) river town of Proctorville, Ohio. The hamlet lies at the southern tip of the state, across the Ohio from Huntington, W. Va. Just why WUMS came into being is a little obscured by time but Thomas's own explanation probably is close: "I sure liked to broadcast."

Thomas was 16 when his voice started to fill the ether around Proctorville. Just talking must have become a bit of a bore, however, and then WUMS went mobile. Thomas carried the transmitter to neighboring towns and began broadcasting from churches, schools and theaters. These one-night broadcasts featured local talent and probably were heard by a few dozen people. Thomas was running only half a watt of power at that time and he might not have been breaking the law, since only

continued on page 14

DIALOGS August 2001

Lee Reynolds, 53 Unity Springs Road, Lempster, NH 03605-3130
Email: lreynolds@cyberportal.net
ICQ# 60166326/4139354
(Next deadline for submissions: August 21st, 2001)

LATE LOGS

Radio Alfa Lima International (Hoogveen)

- 06/16/01, 2220-0027+, 15070A – host Alfred spinning the hot wax in a live program with music by Three Doors Down, Creed and Destinys' Child. (JF-RI 343)

Radio Free London (819@radiofreelondon.co.uk)

- 06/18/01, 0128-0206, 5805A – mx – Doors, Hollies, Turtles, Badfinger. Frequent IDs by OM announcer. (RC-MA 242)
- 06/24/01, 0252-0309, 5805A – mx – "Dancing in the Moonlight", "Sunset Grille", other rock/pop. OM talk and IDs. (RC-MA 343)

Bills' Militia Movement (Belfast)

- 06/16/01, 2134-2227+, 6900A – mx – early Who, OM anncr "the New Militia" and ID as "BMM – Bills' Militia Movement." (JF-RI 343)
- 06/16/01, 2350-0019+, 6900A – more Who, Belfast drop given, anncr says "The more money you send in, the higher rank you will get!" (JF-RI 343)

FROM ACROSS THE POND

Alfa Lima International (Hoogveen)

- 06/30/01, 2330+, 15070A – mx – pop. Frequent IDs. (GM-FL)
- 07/15/01, 0245, 15070A – mx – Eminem, Back Street Boys. Words from Alfred. (RC-MA)

Mike Radio (mikeradio48@hotmail.com)

- 07/15/01, 0428-0500+, 9290A(?) – host Mike talking about last weeks' transmission tests and his Rohde & Schwartz transmitter. ID "You're listening to Mike Radio station from the Netherlands", instrumental "Man Of Action" pirate theme. (CL-MA 333)

NORTH/SOUTH AMERICAN LOGGINGS

Bong Radio (Probably Sycko Radio - who has none)

- 07/05/01, 0358-0447*, 6950U – IDing with "Bong Radio", lots of "Yeah, man" and "pretty good quality stuff here". Talk about the Fourth. (AF 322 – Al says this is Sycko Radio) (PL-NY)(GZ-OH 343)

Crunch Radio (FRN/A.C.E.)

- 07/05/01, 0159-0245, 6950A – mx – "God Bless America", "Dixie", "America The Beautiful" and others in similar vein. Also hot 30's sounds. (AF 422) (PL-NY – Paul reported USB?) (WT-IL 133)(GZ-OH 242)

CSIC (Merlin/Blue Ridge Summit)

- 07/08/01, 2205+, 15055A – very weak, very low audio. (JF-RI 141)

Jolly Roger Radio International/The Voice Of The Angry Bastard (Belfast)

- 06/25/01, 0101-0128, 6950A – mx – JRRJ country music shows. Relayed by VotAB. (AF 322)

KIPM (Elkhorn)

- 06/30/01, 0134-0232*, 6950U – "He Who Shrank" – a tale of science and miniaturization of people. Sounds as if additional acting staff has been added to KIPM! (AF 333)(Pse QSL PL-NY 333)(GM-FL)(GZ-OH 242)
- 06/30/01, 0300, 6950U – "Monsters Of The Mind". (WT-IL 244)
- 06/30/01, 0510+, 6950U – repeat of "He Who Shrank." (GM-FL)
- 07/01/01, 0038-0225+, 6950A – "Monsters Of The Mind" and into "He Who Shrank" (WT-IL 222 – poor mod.)(GZ-OH) (AF 121)
- 07/01/01, 0358, 6950A – tail end of a show. (WT-IL 344)
- 07/01/01, 0408-0456, 6950A – "Strange Cargo". (WT-IL 233)
- 07/01/01, 0504-0608, 6950U – "The Adversary". (WT-IL 143)
- 07/01/01, 0610, 6950U – "He Who Shrank". (WT-IL 144)

KRMI (krmi6955@hotmail.com)

- 06/25/01, 0232-0239, 6950L – being nervous, WRMI, rude Country mx, cussing. Possible technical problems. (AF 544)
- 06/29/01, 0217-0236*, 6950U – “just another day on campus”, “Up in smoke”, other odd music, music sounds good, but the id is barely audible. (AF 232)
- 07/01/01, 0016-0034, 6950U – the “Blame Canada” song from South Park, discussion of Canda and a mix of songs. (Pse QSL FM-NH 433)
- 07/01/01, 0247-0300*, 6955U – “Happy Birthday to Canada” show, Canada-related music and commentary. (AF 322)
- 07/01/01, 1306-1317*, 6955U – mx with OM announcer talking about a vacation. KRMI/Radio Michigan International ID at 1312. (GZ-OH 242)
- 07/02/01, *0016-0134*, 6950U – a repeat of the show of 07/01/01, comedy sketches/songs including the “Little Geyser” personal hygiene product. “Rocking Pneumonia” and off. (AF 433)(GZ-OH 343)

Mystery Science Radio (A.C.E.)

- 06/30/01, 0107-0132*, 6950U – host “Cherokee Jack Kirby”, tribute to MST3K, mention of KIPM, “The Swan”, a train song. Off with “Outer Limits” clip. (AF 232)(Pse QSL PL-NY 333)(Pse QSL LR-NH 331)(Pse QSL GM-FL)

Partial India Radio (Providence)

- 07/14/01, 0156-0220*, 6955U – mx – Doors. Hosts Sanjay and Harold Krishna with their Kulpville show including “10 Things not to say to Bozo.” (CL-MA 333)

Radio 3 (A.C.E.)

- 06/29/01, 0110-0142*, 6950U – mx – metal. Quote from George Zeller, reference to WMFQ. (AF 444)

Radio Bingo (Merlin)

- 06/25/01, 0200-0229*, 6955L – mx – “Drivers’ Seat”, “Turning Japanese”. Mention of Captain Ron and Radio Bob, Al Fansome wins \$1,000 US. (AF 444)
- 06/27/01, 0055-0126*, 6950L – mx – Beatles, metal. Brought to us by Niel Wolfish, Al Fansome wins again. (AF 232 – really improved to 555 by end!)
- 07/05/01, 0037-0052*, 6955A – JTA plays, clips of other ops. George Zeller doesn’t win yet again! (GZ-OH 333)
- 07/10/01, 0241-0320*, 6955U – “Sometimes A Fantasy”, “I’m The Man” and other strange stuff. (AF 444)

Radio Free Speech (Belfast)

- 07/08/01, 0114-0116, 6900A – Bill O. Rights, Belfast drop announcement, then dead air seemingly due to technical problems. (AF 433)

Shadow Radio (the_shadow6950@hotmail.com)

- 06/25/01, 0316, 6950U – mx – Sinatra, “The Shadow knows” was heard. Mixed up with JRR1/VotAB so ID difficult. (AF 131)
- 07/05/01, 0023, 6955A – mx – “Wreck Of Old 97”, “Revolution Number Nine”, train sounds FX. (AF 422)

Sycko Radio (None)

- 06/26/01, 0256, 6955U – mom scolding her kid about listening to Sycko, “International Shortwave” jingle, music. (AF 433)
- 06/28/01, 0234, 6955U – rap, metal, punk. Tune by Rush. (AF 433)
- 06/29/01, 0244, 6950U – mx – “We Will Rock You”, “Tom Sawyer”. “International Shortwave” jingle. (AF 444)
- 07/02/01, 0251-0318, 6950U – “We Will Rock You”, strange sound FX. Off suddenly. (AF 423)(WT-IL 144)
- 07/04/01, 0101-0318*, 6950U – mx – “Whip It”, “Is She Really Going Out With Him?” The “International Shortwave” jingle was heard – this is used by Sycko. Technical problems with xmission as well. Looney Tunes signoff. (AF 534)(GM-FL)(GZ-OH 333)(WT-IL 233)
- 07/09/01, 0251, 6950U – “Do not attempt to change frequency” heard and claiming to be on 6955. (AF 232)
- 07/10/01, 0233, 6950U – possibly original song “Pirate Radio”, Bong Radio ID heard. (AF 333)
- 07/11/01, 0257, 6955U – mx – punk, Queen. Stereo test record. (AF 333)

The Voice Of Captain Ron Shortwave (captainronswr@yahoo.com)

- 07/05/01, 0107-0152, 6953U – mx – rap. Poor copy but the Captain was heard making commentary on Independence Day and waxing philosophical. (AF 221)(WT-IL 122)(GZ-OH 343)
- 07/06/01, 0019-0042*, 6950L – bad condx, sounds as if the Major was with him as well. (AF 222)

WHYP (whyp1530@partycloudy.com)

- 06/27/01, 0212-0235, 6950U – mx – Dream Police, “Crystal Blue Persuasion”. Guest Captain Ganja. Much mention of Bozo, Kulpville and the legendary *Siraka Stinger* cocktail. (RC-MA 343)

- 07/06/01, 0129-0224*, 6955A – a show dedicated to Al Fansome. Musical parodies and songs by Devo and Natalie Merchant. (AF 322)
- 07/07/01, 0139-0321*, 6950A – long show of well known tunes and parodies including – “Soul Man”, “Whip It”, “Radio, Radio”. Parody advertising - “DX Survivor”. (GM-CT 434) (AF 545)(GZ-OH 444)
- 07/07/01, 2358-0040, 6953A – anniversary birthday bash, 3 years, originally a station designed to annoy Dxers. Natalie Merchant sings a duet with James, KIPM parody “Oxycontin Overdose”, “La Vida Lula”. (AF 555)(RC-MA 454)
- 07/08/01, 0027-0151*, 6952A – the “Pirate Op” show with D.J.Nehru getting to the thousand dollar round. “Ballad Of The Green Berets” and the famous JB mumbblings. (GM-CT 535)(GZ-OH 444)(Pse QSL BF-PA)
- 07/09/01, *0048-0121*, 6953A – mx – “Dominique”, “Hot Child In The City”, “Funky Cold Medina”. Halloween search for James’ record collection. Technical problems noted. (AF 322)(GZ-OH 442)
- 07/12/01, 0109, 6955A – mx – rap. (AF 322)
- 07/12/01, 0310, 6950U – mx – metal, clips of Jimmy Da Weasel railing against the FCC and singing about his urinary incontinence. Testing a new antenna. (AF 322 S3-S7 variation, audio a little echo-ey)
- 07/13/01, 0214, 6950A – mx – Blondie, possible Beatles. “WHYP Outer Limits”. (AF 311)

WKND (Blue Ridge Summit)

- 07/08/01, 0152-0223*, 6950A – Rick O’Shea and the Radio Animal with an all-The Cars show. Mention of the Canine Network News and the “We’re Canine Dog” slogan. Laughing OM IS at QRT. (GM-CT 232)(AF 131)(GZ-OH 242)

WMFQ (Providence)

- 07/05/01, 0231, 6945L – brief snippets of songs, Providence drop announcement, the WMFQ profane chorused ID. (AF 422)

WRMI (Probably the same as KRMI’s?)

- 06/24/01, 1237-1245*, 6955U – mx – rock. Greetings to listeners. (GZ-OH 232 – George goes on to report “The call letters stand for an announced slogan of R. Michigan International, and have nothing to do with any Florida SWBC broadcasters. In the past I’ve heard this one announcing as KRMI, but not this time.”)

WVDA (wvdapirate@yahoo.com)

- 07/04/01, *0320*, 6950U – OM announcer with clear ID and announcement that a broadcast is coming up. Broadcast didn’t. Was in brief QSO with another station. (GZ-OH 343)

TENTATIVE/UNIDENTIFIED

CSIC?

- 07/01/01, 0307-0320+, 11329A – faint mx and possible Brother MacKenzie sound FX. (GZ-OH 242)

UNID

- 06/27/01, 0031, 6955L – some het, brief mx, off. (AF 333)
- 06/30/01, 0108-0133*, 6950U – strange mx and OM talk. May have heard Ground Zero Radio ID at QRT but was possibly part of a KIPM marathon. (GZ-OH 242)
- 07/02/01, 0324-0403, 6950U – mx – “Rum and Coca Cola”, old radio show. (WT-IL 122)(Sounds like *Crunche programming to me? – Lee*)
- 07/06/01, 0047-0055*, 6955A – possibly WHYP, rock mx, great deal of static. (AF 422)
- 07/09/01, 0447, 6950U – station talking to Sycko plays a song, seems to be budding Pirate. Very faint, possibly YL? (AF 132)
- 07/11/01, 0021-0048+, 6950L – rock mx, no ID during the broadcast. (GZ-OH 343)

CONTRIBUTORS/PLEASE QSL

Al Fansome (AF)

Ross Comeau, 16 Linwood Street, Andover, MA 01810 (RC-MA)

Joe Filipkowski, 28 Mill Wheel Road, Warwick, RI 02886 (JF-RI)

Bill Finn, 2905 Tyson Avenue, Philadelphia, PA 19149-1908 (BF-PA)

William Hassig, 102 North Russel Street, Mount Prospect, IL 60056 (WH-IL)

Paul Lerner, 670 Evelyn Avenue, East Meadow, NY 11554-5427 (PL-NY)

Chris Lobdell, PO Box 146, Stoneham, MA 02180 (CL-MA)

Greg Majewski, 1176 Route 163, Oakdale, CT 06370 (GM-CT)

Greg Myers, PO Box 20112, St. Petersburg, FL 33742 (GM-FL)

Frederick Moe, 36 West Main Street, Warner, NH 03278 (FM-NH)

George Zeller, 3492 West 123rd Street, Cleveland, OH 44111 (GZ-OH)

RAMBLINGS

An interestingly mixed bag this month. Curious to see a WKND show being reported – as far as I'm aware he hasn't produced anything new in a long time so this could be a resurrected tape of an old show?

CSIC (of rubber chicken fame) have made a couple of attempts at getting back on the air. I (and a good few other folks) were listening for them but their signal seems to be waaay down so there's probably a bit more engineering for them to do yet.

Two great stations that haven't been heard from in a while are Radio Azteca and Radio Garbanzo – Fred, Bram, we all miss your twisted discourses and would love to hear some new stuff from ya both!!!!

Nice to Hear Mystery Science Radio on – he seems to have put a bit of thought and effort into his programming so it's good to listen to. (*Did I brown nose enough to get a QSL? Huh? Huh?*)

Radio Bingo have acquired a maildrop, they're using the Merlin, Ontario box.

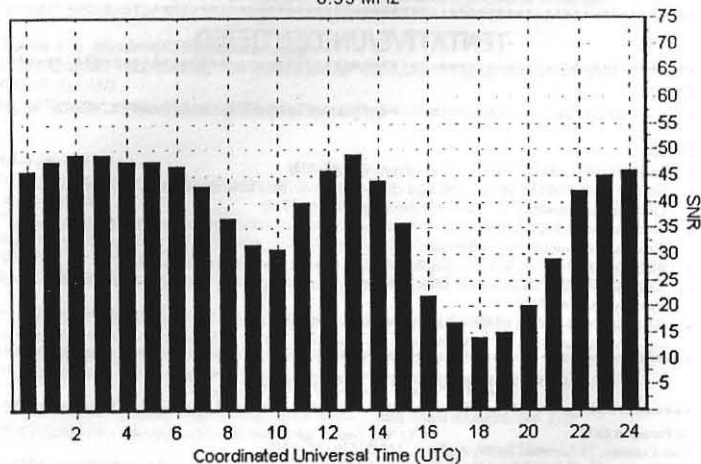
This month we have William Hassig as a new (to me, anyway) contributor. Thanks for the submissions!

PROPAGATION

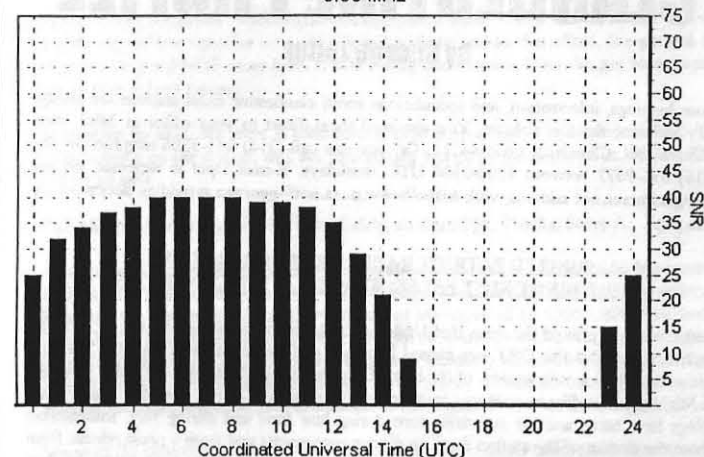
Well, Summer is well under way but activity's holding up very nicely. Of course, propagation is halfway decent but noise (natural, not man-made) levels are way up and likely to stay so until we get into October.

This month, boys and girls, we're back to charts for 6955 and the USA only – I figure a three month interval will have made generating new data worthwhile for us all.

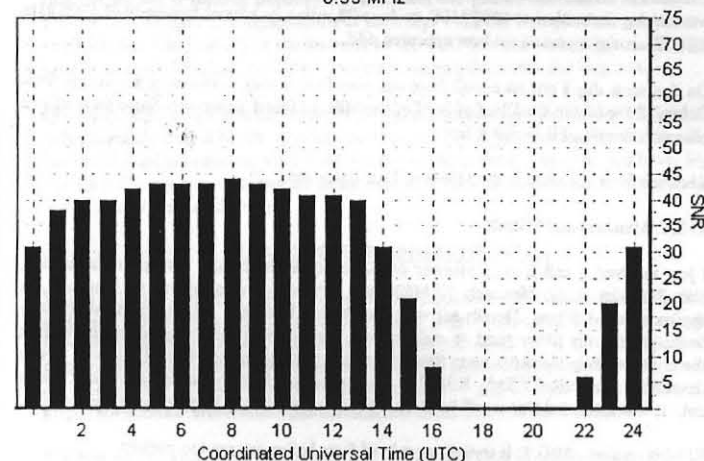
Aug. 2001 Flux: 156 SSN: 112 K: N/A
Philadelphia, PA to Kansas City, KS
6.95 MHz



Aug. 2001 Flux: 156 SSN: 112 K: N/A
Philadelphia, PA to Los Angeles, CA
6.95 MHz



Aug. 2001 Flux: 156 SSN: 112 K: N/A
Kansas City, KS to Los Angeles, CA
6.95 MHz



CLANDESTINE PROFILE

by George Zeller

Your loggings, information, and speculations about clandestine radio stations are always very welcome for this column. You can send them direct to your editor at 3492 West 123rd Street, Cleveland, Ohio 44111. Or, you can call (216) 941-3366 anytime, or else (216) 696-9077 between 1200-2100 UTC weekdays. E-mail input is welcome via my georgez@nacs.net address, with <http://www.nacs.net/~georgez> providing access to my web page.

UNITED PATRIOT RADIO QRT SHORT LIVED RUMORS OF BUST FALSE; REACTIVATION CONTINUES

Last month we printed the news that United Patriot Radio had signed off the air, with an announcement that this QRT was caused by a lack of financial support from the "patriot" community, and was in protest of the lack of support by the "patriots" for Mark Koernke in Michigan. But, like most things surrounding the operation of this domestic clandestine, things have taken another surprising turn during late June and during July. Information about the demise of the station from on air announcements and from a press release from the station have all turned out to be premature and incorrect. We have plenty of new information this month, courtesy of ACE member Bud Stacey and courtesy of Martin Schoech at *Clandestine Radio Watch*.

A special edition of *Clandestine Radio Watch* and *Cumbre DX* on June 28, based on material from Hans Johnson, reported that United Patriot Radio had been busted around 0500 UTC on June 27. But, another special edition of *Clandestine Radio Watch* and *Cumbre DX* hit the internet later the same day on June 28. Hans Johnson reported that he was hearing the station at 0007 UTC on June 28, using its normal frequency of 6900 kHz USB. Thus, the report of the bust appeared odd.

On that same day I got an e-mail from our own Bud Stacey, forwarding a message from Colonel Dave Miner, the Chief of Staff of the Militia of East Tennessee. Since most of you have not seen this, I'll reprint it here:

Received from our allies in the Militia of East Tennessee:

M.E.T. Members and Friends --

I just received a call from a member of Kentucky State Militia. Steve's radio station, United Patriot Radio (formerly KSMR), was apparently raided about an hour ago, at approximately 1:00pm. Details are very sketchy but KSM has info indicating shots were fired. Apparently Steve tried to make it to a nearby relative's house but never made it there. Apparently the shots were fired while he was on the phone to that relative. It was the relative that called KSM. KSM has dispatched a unit to the location to check things out. It was estimated that it will be at least another hour before they arrive at the scene.

KSM is on alert. M.E.T. is trying to get hard facts before we get too excited.

As soon as we get anything firm enough to pass on, you will hear from either John, Sandy or me. If you have any questions, please call or email. Hopefully by the time you read this we will have received some hard facts.

Yours in freedom for the moment, Col. Dave Miner, Chief of Staff, Militia of East Tennessee

Later that same day, Bud Stacey forwarded another communication that he found on the Freedom News Mailing List. This time the words came from Steve Anderson, the

announced operator of United Patriot Radio. Once again, this is important enough that I will list it here:

From: "Steve Anderson" <bulldogradio621@hotmail.com> There was no raid. There was a gathering of law agencies in town. We got a phone call to that effect. We put out our sentries. They did NOT come here. It was a drug raid in town. How this got blown out of proportion, I don't know.

I called for no alert. We were in total control here at all times. Who started this???? This reflects badly on the station, as I am sure people will point the finger at us. We did NOT call up an alert.

PLEASE put this out to your list immediately, so this stops. Thanks, Steve A.

As if this was not confusing enough already, since then United Patriot Radio has resumed fairly regular (but not daily) activity on 43 meters. *Free Radio Weekly* noted a variety of logs from the station, mainly by Larry Russell of Michigan, all on 6900 USB in the area of 0200 UTC. I heard them myself on June 30 from 0050-0105+ with a relay of the "Yahweh Show" and then some of their own productions including an ad for patriot soap. Larry Russell was still hearing them in mid-July. Bud Stacey forwarded information that they were sometimes using 6880 kHz in addition to the regular 6900 kHz channel.

So, as of the column deadline for *The ACE* this month, United Patriot Radio appears to be still with us. Bud Stacey remarked that it looks like this guy has unlicensed broadcasting "in his blood" now, and that we thus might be hearing from him for quite a while to come. Bud is probably right, but we'll only find out by listening. I heard other remarks from an anonymous source familiar with the behavior of the FCC, who suggested that the government might be unlikely to bust this station. This source's reasoning was that it might have little to do with the "armed" nature of the patriot movement, with the possibility of a Ruby Ridge standoff. Instead, it could be as simple as the fact that the government knows that the station is seeking publicity for itself and the patriot movement. A bust would provide very substantially higher levels of publicity, while the lack of a bust minimizes this publicity. So, it is probably in the interests of the FCC to more or less ignore these guys, believe it or not. We shall see if they continue to ignore them over the long run.

Obviously, this situation remains one of the most interesting in the history of clandestine radio, certainly from a North American perspective. So, if you are hearing them, or if you have additional information, send it in! We all will be interested in what you have. Signal reports inevitably note that they are heard extremely well all over North America, and also in many other parts of the world.

CLANDESTINE RADIO SCHEDULES

Martin Schoech and Nick Grace of *ClandestineRadio.com* and *Clandestine Radio Watch* sent us a press release this month, noting that 3 pages with clandestine radio schedules have been added to the web site of CRW. These schedules are: CR - All regions - All stations by Eike Bierwirth - Germany Kurdistan SW Target List by Dan Henderson - USA & Somalia SW Target List by Dan Henderson - USA. You can find them via <http://www.clandestineradio.com/martin/crw-main.html> on the internet.

The best way to inform you about this press release is to print it, which we just did.

CLANDESTINE RADIO WATCH

The partnership between Martin Schoech's *Clandestine Radio Watch* newsletter and Nick Grace's *Clandestine Radio Intel* web site, continues to gather steam under its new web acronym and URL of <http://www.ClandestineRadio.com> via the internet. This site has evolved into a collaboration between clandestine radio information resources throughout the world. As you saw above, *Cumbre DX* clandestine loggings inevitably make their way

into CRW. *The ACE* is regularly represented in CRW information. Literally dozens of sources contribute to CRW's material in every edition of the newsletter.

For instance, in June there were logs by veteran DXer Anker Peterson in *EDXP Newsplus*. He heard the Chinese clandestine De Guang Ming Dian Tai on 12075//15440 kHz from *2200-2300* UTC on June 19. Many of you may not subscribe to *EDXP Newsplus*, but in CRW you can get this information, which could be very useful if you're trying to hear this Chinese station with their new ID.

As another example, veteran DXer Ed Kusalik of Alberta heard the African clandestine Nestanser Radio with a *1700 UTC sign-on using 12110 kHz over the Fourth of July weekend. This log appeared in *DXplorer*, but since most of us don't have access to this, we can get the same information out of CRW.

If all of this can't get you to go check out the clandestineradio.com web site, then you probably have no interest in clandestine radio DXing.

The latest edition of CRW #072 notes an expansion of the CRW staff. It now consists of Editor-in-Chief Martin Schoech with his schoech@clandestineradio.com e-mail address, as well as three "Correspondents." Heading the "Baltics Bureau" is Robertas Petraitis with tornado493@hotmail.com e-mail. Heading the "Houston Bureau" is Owen Williamson with williamson@dzn.com for e-mail. Finally, heading the "Washington Bureau" is Nick Grace at grace@clandestineradio.com for e-mail. This is of course the same Nick Grace who edited the Dialogs column in *The ACE* for a number of years. All of these members of the CRW staff would be delighted to hear from you.

RADIO BARABARI

Given the continuing conflict between Israel and the Palestinian State, which appears on the news virtually every day, it might seem strange that you don't see more frequent mention of clandestine station activity from this region. Part of this is because the local clandestine stations typically use medium wave, and thus are nearly impossible DX catches for us in North America. But, as is noted in logs from R. Pankov of Bulgaria in CRW #072 as originally noted in *Broadcast DX-Germany*, Radio Barabari is sometimes audible on shortwave. He had them 7480 kHz at 1730 UTC on May 28 in Hebrew. This isn't much help to us in North America, since Middle Eastern stations don't propagate to North America in the early afternoon on 41 meters. But, he also notes that there are Army stations using frequencies like 11585, 15780, and 15785 kHz at this time of day. The latter frequencies would be quite feasible for North American reception, even with relatively low power on days of good propagation. So, it could pay to check these frequencies out.

BILL FINN'S NEW SONY CAR RADIO

I got word this month from two people, our own Bill Finn of Pennsylvania and also regular Winter SWL Festival attendee Ed Cummings, who have acquired a new Sony XR-CA620X. Probably you have never heard of this radio, but the immediate predecessor model from Sony was the 5600X that is reviewed at length in the 2001 edition of *Passport to World Band Radio*. Sony continues to market an AM/FM/SW/Cassette radio for the car, but it appears that the new XR-CA620X has replaced the now discontinued 5600X model. Both Ed and Bill report that they are enjoying their new toy.

Bill did note that the scanner inside this radio popped up on the Voice of Nigeria on 7255 kHz on one of the first days that he was using the radio from his car. When I recently won a very nice Zweisimmen shirt from Swiss Radio International, I heard about it while driving down the road and listening to SRI on 9885 kHz from the Sottens transmitter that has not gone QRT yet with its North American service. Despite the idiotic move by the BBC to abandon their North American service, I still can hear them on 17840 kHz during the middle of the day. I also heard the special broadcasts from Radio Netherlands that used the former BBC frequencies for a couple of weeks to remind listeners that the Netherlands is not as stupid as the United Kingdom.

In any event, it is clear from everybody who gets one that the Sony in-dash shortwave car units are very good indeed for program listening while you are driving down the road. As is noted in the *Passport* review, you can't find any of these radios in North America. Proving that stupidity is not concentrated only in the UK but is also widely distributed in Japan, Sony North America absolutely refuses to market these units. But, you still can acquire them at an extremely good price via air freight from Jacky's in Dubai, reachable at <http://www.jackys.com> on your internet dial.

One problem with the units deserves mention, however. They operate with outstanding audio fidelity in AM mode, but they do not have sideband capabilities. Thus, many pirates on 6950 and 6955 kHz using sideband modes, as well as the United Patriot Radio signal on 6900 kHz, can't be clearly demodulated on the Sonys. However, if WKND puts out another AM transmission like it did a couple of weeks ago, the Sony car radio will pull it in just fine.

THANKS!

The input of ACE members and other DXers is vitally important to this column, and to all other ACE columns. We thank Martin Schoech (Germany), Bud Stacey (Alabama), Tom Severt (Kansas), Bill Finn (Pennsylvania), Ed Cummings (New Jersey) and George Zeller (Ohio) for providing material. Next month we all hope to hear from you by August 19 for the September *Clandestine Profile*.

Micro'casting

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We're always looking for information regarding the hobbies of LPFM, Part 15 broadcasting, equipment, homebrew articles or anything related to these hobbyist practices, so please submit YOUR goods to the address(s) above before the 20th of each month. Thank you!

SUMMERTIME MONITORING: I finally found a place and time for pirate radio monitoring: on camping trips! I know, this is a little off track from AM/FM micro'casting, but I'm excited that I finally heard my second EuroPirate after many, many years of the first, and I did it all on a camping trip near Pascagoula, MS with my DX-440 on battery power and it's whip...no active antenna (although I wished I'd have had it!) or external antenna at all. It was Alpha Lima International. Funny, what with all the thunderstorms we've had lately, this past weekend was clear of static & rain, although we had numerous "friendly" clouds up there. I can't wait to get my report off! Ah, well, YOU come first, so here we go into...

NEWS- SOME GOOD, A LITTLE BAD: First, the bad news, since we have so much good. The Kremlin returned Russia to yesteryear's Cold War authoritarianism by silencing the last free speech radio station, Ekho Moskvy. This station was an open voice of dissent until Vladimir Putin had them "nationalized"; in other words, taken over by the government. You may read the whole story at: www.thetimes.co.uk/article/0,,3-2001232057,00.html

In many folks opinion (mine included), Putin, a former KGB officer, is a dangerous, two-faced Soviet. Look for more developments where Russia returns to its pre-collapse state, especially at: www.newsmax.com and www.worldnetdaily.com, two fine NON-GOVERNMENT newsgroups who pull no punches in reporting. It also pays to look back at both websites' archives...

Now, the good news: as unusual as it may seem, I've seen folks on the rec.radio.shortwave newsgroup posting info on car'casters, the little wireless links one may use from a portable CD to the car's stereo. Folks are messing with them in ways...well, you know! It seems these pop up every now and then in stores like Target and other variety stores. Prices vary, usually \$19.95, but can be sometimes found for as little as \$9.95. These can be fun to play with over a weekend.

The unit mentioned was "improved" by increasing battery voltage from 1.5 volts to 3 volts; the unit "smoked" at 3.6 volts, but the experimenter had a couple more. Seems as if he had some fun with it!

The first LPFM station has surfaced, according to an article in Radio World (7/18/01 issue). KCJM-LP in Alexandria, LA went on the air 6/21/01 with 100 watts ERP power; budget was about \$24,000. Its main goal is "to teach broadcasting to young people ages 12-24" and will be taught the ins and outs of the radio industry. Well, someone has to take up the slack for all the mega-corporations dumping hundreds of radio people on the streets; there's little on-the-job training now that most stations are automated and satellite-fed! So where will this new crop of radio people go?

Well, KCJM-LP had several problems in the beginning, especially how to route audio from the studio to transmitter; they were granted permission to operate in a historic building being renovated. No holes could be drilled for lines! Later, they were able to relocate across the street. They couldn't use 2.4 GHz links, which are line-of-sight so they finally wound up with a 170 MHz wireless mic system, removing the mic element & hardwiring it direct to their audio. They call it their "Mr. Microphone STL"! They use Behringer and RCA gear and run 24 hours a day using a DRS 2006 hard-disc automation system. Hope they have a long life!

CROWN'S PC-BASED TRANSMITTER: Remember PCS Electronics' PC MAX? Looks like Crown is coming out with a PC-based transmitter very soon also! However, they claim it to be the "industry's first pc-based transmitter" Looks like I'll have to send them an e-mail to set them straight, yeah?

Called the Crown Cardcast System, the system "can be managed with a variety of software programs." It accepts line-level audio input, provides a "digitally processed 250 mw output" and is complete with its own antenna. Frequency is selectable by the user with a range from 72 to 108 MHz in 100 kHz chunks. Crown says Cardcast will be available in the fall. Contact them for more information at: www.crownbroadcast.com or call 219-262-8900.

And speaking of PCS Electronics, they have updated their website and are looking for comments; PCS is the outlet for the MAX PRO transmitters and related gear. From personal reviews of users, looks like everyone likes this stuff; it's easy to work with, is of good quality, frequency stable and well-filtered. If you're looking for information regarding the hobbies of LPFM, Part 15 broadcasting, equipment, give them a look-see and contact Marko at: www.pcs-electronics.com and tell Marko you saw it in The ACE!

Well, it's back to work tomorrow. Hope your summer is going "swimmingly"! Thanks to the alt-radio-pirate, rec.radio.shortwave and NewsMax newsgroups and Radio World for material used here. May I hear from YOU soon? de Bud



Covert Comms

By Tom Sevart

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This month I have some interesting activity to report. On July 13th at 0026 UTC, I found the frequency of 8157 to be active with a YL/SS in AM sending a few numbers. It wasn't the usual Cuban V2 or even CIA V5 version of the counting stations, but the Spanish-language version of the "Russian Man" family, the "Spanish Lady" or V6. She repeated a few numbers and then stopped. At 0030, on came the "English Man" or E6. He repeated 989 several times and eventually went into a 261 261 50 50 preamble, followed by several 5F numbers. However, instead of finishing the message, he stopped in the middle of it. Eventually he came back on the air and repeated the callup for a few minutes, then began the message again. Once again, he stopped in the middle of the message. He came back on with the callup, then went into 5F numbers and ended the message, signing down with 0000 instead of the usual five zeros. This happened numerous times until the station finally left the air sometime after 0100 UTC, signing down with the normal five zeros.

I thought the callup sounded familiar, so I checked my logs for the freq 8157. Sure enough, I remembered hearing the "English Woman," or E17, doing this before, and found it logged on September 19, 1997 at 0340. She kept repeating the 989 callup and starting & stopping the message before finally signing down with 0000, not the normal five zeros as is the norm for this station.

I'm firmly convinced that both these transmissions were some sort of test transmissions. The "Russian Man" family of stations, run by Russian intelligence, are normally high-quality transmissions. Technical difficulties are rare. Plus, with the YL/SS version of the voice on freq before the "English Man" signed on shows that they were probably running a few numbers through the system to test it out before broadcasting real messages on other frequencies. The callup of 989 may be an indicator of a test transmission. 8157 will be a good freq to keep an ear to for this kind of activity.

It should be noted that this family of numbers stations uses computer-generated numbers for its broadcasts, not tape. When I was listening to the OM/EE transmission, I noticed that there wasn't enough time to rewind any kind of tape between stops/starts.

Al Fansome sends along his views on a book recently out called "The Code Book." Here are his observations in his own words: "This book is billed as 'The Science of Secrecy from Ancient Egypt to Quantum Cryptography', and I think it fills the bill pretty well. It presents the progression of cryptography as a battle between codemakers and codebreakers, from ancient times through the present. It presents simple codes of the ancients, proceeds through a good description of the codebreaking triumphs of WWII against the Enigma, and finishes with a very readable description of modern advances such as public-key codes and quantum cryptography. The math is kept to a minimum, and the codes are explained simply and clearly. This is a good book, and would be a good introduction to anyone interested in the history of secrecy."

I personally have seen this book in my local bookstore but so far haven't purchased a copy of it. But thumbing through it looks like it will be a good read for anyone interested in cryptography.

Read a good book on cryptography, signals intelligence, or secret radio in general? Let me know what you think of it, and I'll include your comments in a future column.

FRN THE FREE RADIO NETWORK

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Poor Chris Lobdell didn't receive enough reports this month to justify a column! Only YOU, the devoted and loyal ACE member, can prevent a repetition of this tragedy! Tell Chris about your latest pirate QSLs by writing him at Box 146, Stoneham, MA, 02180 or by e-mail to clobdell@mediaone.net.

Thank you to the editors and all contributors this month. I especially thank George Zeller and Ullis Fleming for submitting copies of their pirate veries for use in future issues!

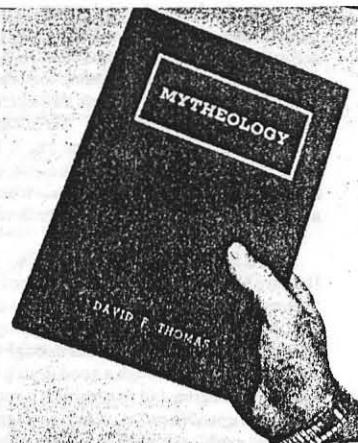
interstate transmissions were regulated and it's questionable whether WUMS could span the Ohio River.

Thomas and his father operated several ferries out of Huntington, so the boy boosted the power of WUMS and was able to get a special FRC permit to operate as an emergency service, mainly at flood-time.

"During floods," says Thomas, "we ran up and down the river and farmers brought food and milk and mail to the landings. They had broadcast radios and could tune in the station to get details about the next trip." The station then was semi-legal, although on the wrong frequency.

Thomas was a high school student when he hatched up WUMS. Later he studied theology but flunked out of school and still later listed himself as an "engineer." As the WUMS business makes obvious, Dave Thomas likes to do big things and attract attention. He's always considered himself quite a thinker and theologian. Fifteen years ago he wrote and paid for the publication of a book called *Mytheology* (pronounced my theology). The tome is notable for its misspelled words, its obscure currents of thought and its wild Thomas-made words. Among other things, it deals with religion, the real truth, brainwaves and "metaphysico-theologicocosmology." A quote:

"Every man who is acquainted with the exact discoveries of the physiologi-



Book authored by the WUMS operator is strange mixture of religion, opinions, obscure chatter.

cal psychology, understands that they leave the question of immortality where they found it—unanswered still."

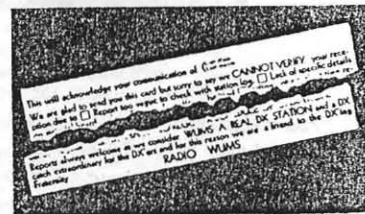
The paragraph may be lifted out of context but the lines above and below it only confuse the picture further.

Thomas has always taken a special pride in WUMS, his own little outlaw monster. As late as 1959 he was able to obtain Ohio license plates carrying the station's call letters (see photo). He claims he was issued the only car li-

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David F. Thomas—theologian, author, thinker, engineer . . . and a pain in the neck to the FCC.

An un-QSL card from WUMS. Thanks, it said, but it could not verify for one of several reasons.



The Strange Case of Radio WUMS

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censes in history to carry the call of an unlicensed station. He might be right.

In 1931, after its location became known to DX circles, WUMS began getting reception reports. The idea of being heard in distant parts seemed to cause Thomas to blow a safety valve. As he says today, speaking of himself in the third person: "We began to get DX crazy."

The WUMS jack-of-all-trades dreamed up a QSL card and began verifying. Naturally, this QSL bureau was different. Each report was scrutinized like a fingerprint at a murder scene. If everything was not exactly up to snuff the DXer got what amounted to an un-QSL card, which said the report could not be verified. All verifications were notarized and mailed with a now-valuable commemorative stamp. WUMS's requirements were so stiff that only three dozen QSL's were issued. Thomas claims to have received one report from New Zealand.

WUMS now used 2004 kc for ferry work and 1560 for broadcasting and ran as much as 10 watts. Thomas broadcast bimonthly DX tests, made up of music and voice interspersed with Morse code. Raucous laughter must have rung up and down the broad Ohio when people along the banks bumped into these strange programs on their new-fangled wireless sets. To qualify for a QSL, DXers had to copy the code letters exactly and mail their reports within 24 hours.

In November 1931 WUMS had two brushes with the feds. Although he was already on the air, Thomas applied for a broadcast station permit but was turned down. At the same time, a Chicago DXer got miffed when he received one of the quaint un-QSL cards and promptly finked to the FRC. Thomas got a stern warning.

"The Commission was determined that I become an amateur, and I had to stay on the broadcast band," says Thomas.

A long series of applications, refusals,

threats and court actions followed. And WUMS kept broadcasting. In 1939 several hams worked WUMS because its 2004-kc channel was near the 160-meter band. The Department of Justice rose up in wrath and filed suit in Cincinnati, the indictment charging Thomas with operating an amateur station without a license. Somebody goofed. WUMS was running without a license, all right, but not as a ham transmitter. No, sir. It was an unlicensed broadcast station. Amidst considerable snickering over the booboo, the indictment was quashed.

Since Thomas's last application for a broadcast license (actually for a construction permit) had been dismissed with prejudice, he had just run out of tails to twist. But he soon realized the G-men hadn't forgotten him. The FCC began to build a huge monitoring station within sight of the WUMS antenna. In the proprietor's view, they were out to nail his hide to the wall. The location was a coincidence, of course, but not in the mind of Dave Thomas.

Despite the monitoring facility, WUMS kept tripping along like a moonshiner in the Treasury Department and stayed out of trouble several years. Then in 1948 the roof finally fell in. Thomas got into a hassle with some fellow members of the National Radio Club, a group of DXers who later threw him out for cheating. The NRC gang were so mad they tipped off the FCC about the next WUMS DX test and the government boys were on frequency and waiting. Thomas was arrested, hauled into court on charges of operating a radio station without a license and then convicted in the Federal District Court at Portsmouth, Ohio. He faced a maximum penalty of a \$5,000 fine and five years in stir.

Thomas appealed and once again saved his neck. This time he pulled out the old FRC flood permit. According to him, the action went like this: "The FCC engineer in charge of the Lexington District said he did not know I had this permit. I said, 'Perhaps you were not important enough for the FCC to tell you about it.'" There was an

[Continued on page 106]

uproar in court and Thomas barely escaped a contempt citation. But he did escape, as he had from every other pitfall along WUMS's 23-year history of outlawry.

Dave Thomas at last decided he'd had enough. WUMS left the air forever. But now its operator is transmitting again . . . as a Citizens Band licensee. He does have a license this time and, chances are, he's as legal as anybody else on the band. —

the ASSOCIATION of CLANDESTINE radio ENTHUSIASTS

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The A*C*E is an association of individuals who find pirate, clandestine and covert communications an interesting part of their radio listening hobby. The primary existence of the club revolves around the publication of a monthly bulletin, The A*C*E. The bulletin reports on pirate, clandestine, covert and other unexplained broadcasts. Also, the readers are provided with other available material concerning motives, explanations and the theories behind these various broadcasts and broadcasters. The ACE as an organization, does not encourage, support or condone any illegal activity; we simply seek to understand the nature and reasoning behind such broadcasts. If your interests include listening to pirate radio stations, clandestine broadcasts and covert communications, The A*C*E is for you!!

All subscriptions, renewals, and queries regarding subscriptions should be sent to the above club address. Contributions for each editor should be sent to their own given addresses.

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